

What is claimed is:

1. A variable length coding method comprising:
comparing corresponding portions of a present picture and a previous
5 picture received by a video encoder; and
performing coding by fixing a COD (coded macroblock indication) flag of
the present picture at a certain value, in response to said corresponding portions
being similar to each other.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said corresponding portions
comprise at least one macroblock each.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the certain value is approximately
equal to "0".
- 15 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
setting a MCBPC (macroblock type & coded block pattern for
chrominance) flag equal to a first value.
- 20 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the first value is approximately
equal to "1".
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
setting a CBPY (coded block pattern for luminance) flag equal to a second
25 value.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the second value is approximately equal to "11".

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
5 setting a MVD (motion vector data) flag equal to a third value.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the third value is approximately equal to "0".

10. A variable length coding method comprising:
determining a coding mode of a macroblock;
setting a COD (coded macroblock indication) flag of a macroblock header to a first value, when a coding mode of the macroblock is determined to be in an Inter mode;
15 setting a MCBPC (macroblock type & coded block pattern for chrominance) flag to a second value;
setting a CBPY (coded block pattern for luminance) flag to a third value;
and
setting a MVD (motion vector data) flag a fourth value.

20 11. The method of claim 11, wherein the first value is approximately "0".

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the second value is
25 approximately "1".

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the third value is approximately "11".
- 5 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the fourth value is approximately "0".
15. A variable length coding system comprising:
means for determining a coding mode of a macroblock;
10 means for setting a COD (coded macroblock indication) flag of a macroblock header to a first value, when a coding mode of the macroblock is determined to be in an Inter mode;
means for setting a MCBPC (macroblock type & coded block pattern for chrominance) flag to a second value;
15 means for setting a CBPY (coded block pattern for luminance) flag to a third value; and
means for setting a MVD (motion vector data) flag a fourth value.
16. The system of claim 11, wherein the first value is approximately "0".
- 20 17. The system of claim 11, wherein the second value is approximately "1".
- 25 18. The system of claim 11, wherein the third value is approximately

“11”.

19. The system of claim 11, wherein the fourth value is approximately “0”.

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20. A method for variable length coding in a video codec, the method comprising:

determining whether a macroblock is coded in a first mode;

10 writing a COD (coded macroblock indication) flag, if the macroblock is not coded in the first mode;

determining if the COD flag is equal to a first value;

15 changing the COD flag to a second value, writing an MCBPC (macroblock type & coded block pattern for chrominance) flag to a third value, writing a CBPY (coded block pattern for luminance) flag to a fourth value, and writing a MVD (motion vector data) flag to a fifth value, in response to the COD flag being equal to the first value, else writing an MCBPC flag and CBPY flag;

determining whether a differential value of a QP is equal to a sixth value;

and

20 writing a DQUANT flag, in response to the differential value of the QP being unequal to the sixth value.